National Telecom Policy, 2005

2534. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing a 'National Telecom Policy, 2005';

(b) if so, salient features thereof; and

(c) by when this 'National Telecom Policy' is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed policy is intended to be a comprehensive policy encompassing various aspects of the Telecom sector *inter-alia*, Access, Spectrum Allocation, Technology, Telecom Equipment Manufacturing, R&D, Deregulation/Further Simplication, Value Added Service and Quality of Service etc. Comments have been invited from various major stakeholder for preparation of Draft Policy.

(e) The National Telecom Policy is likely to be announced before the end of this year.

Provision of mobile service in rural areas

†2535. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile service is yet not available in rural areas and small towns;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any step for providing mobile service in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Under the terms and conditions of License Agreement of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Services (UAS) Licence, in metros 90% of the service area shall be covered within one year of the effective date and in Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in first year and 50% of DHQs will be covered within three years of effective date of licence. The choice of District Headquarters/Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns lies with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.

Employment through e-infrastucture/e-learning groups

2536. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have created a separate productivity and employment center division under the existing e-infrastructure/e-learning group;

(b) whether the division will play a nodal role in identifying the various sectors where the information communication tools can be extended to enhance productivity of the sector and consequently generate more employment;

(c) the main proposals that are being considered; and

(d) to what extent it has been able to generate more employment as desired by the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The division has identified a sectoral approach to enhance productivity and consequential employment generations.